



Protecting Our Heritage

Historic Preservation and Cultural Resources Program Responsibilities

www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/index.shtm

FEMA integrates historic preservation considerations into its mission of preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation. During disaster recovery operations, the agency assesses damages to historic and cultural resources, provides technical assistance to States and local jurisdictions, and ensures compliance with applicable Federal laws and regulations, such as Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Supporting State and local governments

FEMA works with State and local governments to provide historic preservation expertise to local teams that assess the structural integrity of buildings damaged in disaster events. FEMA provides technical assistance to State and local governments on historic preservation issues, and collaborates with Indian tribes to address any unique cultural concerns they may have. Historic preservation specialists also evaluate the eligibility of buildings and neighborhoods for the National Register of Historic Places.

In addition, FEMA, a founding member of the Heritage Emergency National Task Force, works with Task Force members to identify needs and available technical assistance and resources for salvaging and protecting historic properties and cultural collections. The Task Force was formed in 1995 to help libraries, archives, museums, historical societies, and historic sites protect their collections and buildings from natural disasters. The Task Force works with partner organizations and distributes materials on historic preservation throughout disaster areas. For more information, visit, <http://www.heritagepreservation.org/programs/taskfer.htm>.

FEMA Deploys Specialists to Affected Areas

FEMA deploys historic preservation specialists to affected areas following a declared disaster. These specialists identify historic preservation issues, assess damages, provide technical assistance, and fulfill FEMA's legal responsibilities under various historic preservation laws, executive orders, and regulations.

Restoration assistance available

FEMA's Public Assistance program provides funding for the repair, replacement, or restoration of disaster-damaged, publicly owned facilities and the facilities of certain non-profit (PNP) organizations. The program includes funding for the restoration of collections and items of "exceptionally significant cultural value" located within or on public or private non-profit property. The Federal share is at least 75 percent of the cost. In addition, the Small Business Administration provides low-interest loans for home repairs.

For more information about funding assistance, see "Before and After Disasters: Federal Funding for Cultural Institutions" on the Web at <http://www.heritagepreservation.org/PDFS/Disaster.pdf>. Find additional resources provided by the National Trust for Historic Preservation at <http://www.nthp.org>.